Abstract

This research is conducted to investigate the concept of so-called climate refugees and climate migrants under the international law and within the social framework. This paper focuses on the existing legal definitions of those terms, on the historical context, their official regulation under the international law and its implications, including some rights and freedoms, global and local protection, international support, and assistance. To explore legal rights and freedoms climate related refugees/migrants might have, several international treaties and documents were studied during completing the research, including the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention, the 1984 Cartagena Declaration, and the UNCHR Strategic Framework for Climate Action.

The analysis of the historical background is important for identifying the impact of the climate change on vulnerable population and for applying this knowledge to the modern cases. Exploring the legal status and legal framework is essential for identifying gaps in international law and addressing the existing challenges. Another significant problem which is addressed in this paper is the absence of the universal treaty-based definition of climate refugees, what significantly affects the way of treating and assisting people displaced in a result of climate change.

Through examining the socio-economic, cultural, political, and environmental applications in regions affected by climate-induced stressors, the paper evaluates effectiveness of the provided support and stresses the necessity of global cooperation towards reducing climate-induced migration.